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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 32, 36, 44, 47 and 49, and add Claims 51 to 72 as follows. The claims as pending in the subject application read as follows:

1. to 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing system in a factory, comprising:

industrial equipment installed in the factory for manufacturing ~~products~~ a product;

a host computer connected to an internet; and

a LAN system connecting to the industrial equipment and the host computer, wherein the host computer is connected to a remote computer placed at a remote location from the factory through the internet, the remote computer providing ~~at least one~~ a database storing maintenance information concerning the industrial equipment, wherein the maintenance information includes both status information received from the host computer concerning the industrial equipment and response information which is used for handling a problem indicated by the status information.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the database stores information for identifying industrial equipment, trouble states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against

the registered trouble states.

34. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 32, wherein the industrial equipment comprises different types of semiconductor apparatuses.

35. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 32, wherein the industrial equipment comprises the same types of semiconductor apparatuses.

36. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing system, comprising:
a computer which ~~is connected to an internet~~ and provides a database storing maintenance information concerning industrial equipment;
a first manufacturing factory having ~~the~~ first industrial equipment and a first LAN system capable of accessing the database through the internet; and
a second manufacturing factory, located at a remote location from said first manufacturing factory, having ~~the~~ second industrial equipment and a second LAN system capable of accessing the database through the internet, wherein the database provided by the computer stores maintenance information concerning the first industrial equipment and the second industrial equipment, and wherein the maintenance information includes both status information received from the first and second LAN systems concerning the first industrial equipment and the second industrial equipment, and response information which is used for handling a problem indicated by the status information.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein the database stores information for identifying an industrial equipment, trouble states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against the registered trouble states.

38. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein said computer automatically notifies an appropriate personnel of trouble with the industrial equipment.

39. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 38, wherein said computer automatically sends an e-mail to the appropriate personnel.

40. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein the industrial equipment comprises a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus and the information comprises trouble information of the semiconductor apparatus.

41. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein said first and second manufacturing factories belong to a single user.

42. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein said first and second manufacturing factories belong to different users from each other.

43. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 32, wherein the remote computer comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

44. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 43, wherein the communication security system inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the remote computer.

45. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 36, wherein the remote computer comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

46. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 45, wherein the communication security system inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the remote computer.

47. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing system in a factory, comprising:
industrial equipment installed in the factory for manufacturing products a product;
a host computer connected to an internet; and
a LAN system connecting to the industrial equipment and said host

computer,

wherein the host computer is connected to a remote computer placed at a remote location from the factory through the internet,

and wherein the remote computer provides ~~at least one~~ a database storing maintenance information concerning the industrial equipment and comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

48. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 47, wherein the communication security system inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the remote computer.

49. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing system, comprising:
a computer which is connected to an internet and provides a database storing information concerning industrial equipment;
a first manufacturing factory having ~~the~~ the first industrial equipment and a first LAN system capable of accessing the database through the internet; and
a second manufacturing factory, located at a remote location from said first manufacturing factory, having ~~the~~ the second industrial equipment and a second LAN system capable of accessing the database through the internet,
wherein the computer provides ~~at least one~~ a database storing maintenance information concerning the first industrial equipment and the second

industrial equipment and comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

50. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 49, wherein the communication security system inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the remote computer.

51. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the industrial equipment of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 32; and
developing the exposed wafer.

52. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the industrial equipment of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 36; and
developing the exposed wafer.

53. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the industrial equipment of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 47; and
developing the exposed wafer.

54. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the industrial equipment of the manufacturing system
defined in Claim 49; and
developing the exposed wafer.

55. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system
defined in Claim 32.

56. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system
defined in Claim 36.

57. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system
defined in Claim 47.

58. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system
defined in Claim 49.

59. (New) A manufacturing system in a factory, comprising:
an exposure apparatus installed in the factory for manufacturing product;
a host computer; and
a LAN system connecting to the exposure apparatus and the host computer,
wherein the host computer is connected to a remote computer placed at a remote location

from the factory, the remote computer providing a database storing maintenance information concerning the exposure apparatus, the maintenance information including status information, of the exposure apparatus, which was received from said host computer and response information which was used for handling a problem indicated by the received status information.

60. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the exposure apparatus of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 59; and
developing the exposed wafer.

61. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system defined in Claim 59.

62. (New) A manufacturing system, comprising:
a computer which provides a database;
a first manufacturing factory having a first exposure apparatus and a first LAN system capable of accessing the database; and
a second manufacturing factory, located at a remote location from said first manufacturing factory, having a second exposure apparatus and a second LAN system capable of accessing the database,
wherein the database stores maintenance information concerning the first

and second exposure apparatuses, the maintenance information including status information, of the first and second exposure apparatuses, which was received from said first and second LAN systems and response information which was used for handling a problem indicated by the received status information.

63. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the exposure apparatus of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 62; and
developing the exposed wafer.

64. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system defined in Claim 62.

65. (New) A manufacturing system in a factory, comprising:
an exposure apparatus installed in the factory for manufacturing product;
a host computer; and
a LAN system connecting to the exposure apparatus and said host computer,
wherein the host computer is connected to a remote computer placed at a remote location from the factory, the remote computer provides a database storing maintenance information concerning the exposure apparatus and comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

66. (New) The system according to Claim 65, wherein the maintenance information includes status information, of the exposure apparatus, which was received from said host computer and response information which was used for handling a problem indicated by the received status information.

67. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the exposure apparatus of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 65; and
developing the exposed wafer.

68. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system defined in Claim 65.

69. (New) A manufacturing system, comprising:
a computer which provides a database storing maintenance information;
a first manufacturing factory having a first exposure apparatus and a first LAN system capable of accessing the database; and
a second manufacturing factory, located at a remote location from said first manufacturing factory, having a second exposure apparatus and a second LAN system capable of accessing the database,
wherein the computer provides a database storing maintenance information

concerning the industrial equipment and comprises a communication security system which inhibits unauthorized entities from accessing the database.

70. (New) The system according to Claim 69, wherein the maintenance information includes status information, of the first and second exposure apparatuses, which was received from said host computer and response information which was used for handling a problem indicated by the received status information.

71. (New) A device manufacturing method, comprising:
exposing a wafer by the exposure apparatus of the manufacturing system defined in Claim 69; and
developing the exposed wafer.

72. (New) A product being manufactured by the manufacturing system defined in Claim 69.